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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,970	09/11/2003	Beth A. Lange	17890 (27839-1256)	5030
45736	7590	12/12/2008	EXAMINER	
Christopher M. Goff (27839) ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE SUITE 2600 ST. LOUIS, MO 63102				CLAYTOR, DEIRDRE RENEE
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1617				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USpatents@armstrongteasdale.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/659,970	LANGE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Renee Claytor	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,12,14-19,21,22,24,25,27-48 and 50-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 31-48 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,12,14-19,21,22,24,25, 27-30, 51-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/19/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered. In particular, Applicants argue that Fox fails to disclose a product comprising 40% to 70% by weight of a water-soluble film forming polymeric material and a solidifying agent as listed in claim 51. Applicants further argue that Fox does not recognize the need for the inclusion of a higher amount of water-soluble polymer. Applicants further argue that Fox is directed to a body wash which is intended to be rinsed from the skin after application and the film forming polymeric material would be unnecessary in the composition because it would hinder the ability of the body wash to be washed away from the skin.

In response to the above arguments, it is noted that the present claim 51 reads on a single-use body treatment product that is a film and comprises a single layer and is comprised of the compounds listed in the claim. Fox teaches a composition that is in the form of a film and will form a water soluble sheet (paragraph 0006 and 0008).

Therefore, Fox meets the limitation of a single-use body treatment that is a film and forms a sheet or layer. Regarding the amounts of the water-soluble polymer, the rejection is being modified to include another reference to better address the amounts of the water-soluble polymer. Therefore, it is deemed that the Fox reference is still a reference that can be used in the claim rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, 14-18 and 51-52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pospischil (US Patent 3,803,300) in view of Horizumi (EP 1,136,057) and Watanabe (JP 61-176512).

Pospischil teaches shaped ointment bodies which are applied to the skin (Col. 1, lines 32-37). The ointment bodies are foil-shaped and include ingredients such as a film forming agents such as carboxymethyl cellulose in amounts of 3 to 20% (Col 1. lines 54-55; Col. 2, lines 47-50). Also included are humectants such as glycerin and sorbitol (see Examples 1-3) which are taught to be added in amounts ranging from 12 to 40% (Col. 1, line 55). Also included in the compositions are occlusive-type moisturizing agents such as petroleum (see Examples 1-4). Surfactants are also added in the composition (See Examples).

Pospischil does note teach amounts of the water-soluble film forming polymeric material at 40-70%, the solidifying agent or the thickness of the product.

Horizumi teaches a sheet cosmetic composition that is a single-layer (paragraph 0008). The compositions are comprised of a water-soluble polymer which include carboxymethyl cellulose in amounts of 0.001-50 wt % (paragraphs 0020 and 0021). Horizumi teaches sheets that contain pullulan (see paragraph 0032).

Watanabe teaches that drying and chapping of the lips can be treated by providing to the lips a humectant and an oleaginous wax that is effective to supply to the skin with moderate oiliness, such as olive oil and lanolin (an animal wax; see abstract in particular), and thus teaches the solidifying agents as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to provide water-soluble polymers in higher amounts as taught by Horizumi in the composition of Pospischil and to further include an oleaginous wax as taught by Watanabe. One would be motivated to add the water-soluble polymer in higher amounts to increase the strength of the composition as taught by Horizumi (paragraph 0020) and to add the oleaginous wax to further moisturize the lips as taught by Watanabe.

Regarding the limitation of the capability of the composition to substantially dissolve in a certain amount of time in claims 1 and 14-16, it is noted that the above listed prior art teaches the various ingredients in the compositions, such as the type and the amount of the water-soluble polymer provided, can affect the solubility and dissolution rate of the composition. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount and type of the ingredients provided in the sheet composition, according to the guidance provided by Pospischil, Horizumi and Watanabe, to provide a composition having desired dissolving properties, such as a desired dissolving duration. It is noted that “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation”. In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Regarding the length of the product as recited in claim 17, it is noted that Pospischil, Horizumi and Watanabe render obvious shaping and configuring the composition for application to the lips, as discussed above. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious based on the teachings of these references to provide a length of the sheet that is suitable to fit on at least a portion of the lips, such as a length of no more than about 8 centimeters, with the expectation of providing a suitable treatment composition for the lips.

Claim 51 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fox (US Pg-Pub 2004/0071755) in view of Horizumi (EP 1136057) and Watanabe (JP 61-176512).

Fox teaches compositions in the form of a soluble sheet or film which is used in the personal care field in a soap bar or liquid body wash (paragraph 0006 and 0008). Fox teaches that the base composition includes a water soluble polymer and a

humectant (moisturizing agent; paragraph 0009). Fox teaches that the water soluble film releases the skin care ingredients upon exposure to sufficient moisture (paragraph 0005).

Fox does not specifically exemplify a composition having the recited components in the specific weight percentages as claimed or the specific solidifying agents as listed in the claims.

Horizumi teaches a sheet cosmetic composition that is a single-layer (paragraph 0008). The compositions are comprised of a water-soluble polymer which include carboxymethyl cellulose in amounts of 0.001-50 wt % (paragraphs 0020 and 0021). Horizumi teaches sheets that contain pullulan (see paragraph 0032).

Watanabe teaches that drying and chapping of the lips can be treated by providing to the lips a humectant and an oleaginous wax that is effective to supply the skin with moderate oiliness, such as olive oil and lanolin (an animal wax) (see abstract, in particular), and thus teaches the solidifying agents as recited in claim 51. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to provide water-soluble polymers in higher amounts as taught by Horizumi in the composition of Fox and to further include an oleaginous wax as taught by Watanabe. One would be motivated to add the water-soluble polymer in higher amounts to increase the strength of the composition as taught by Horizumi (paragraph 0020) and to add the oleaginous wax to further moisturize the skin as taught by Watanabe.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Renee Claytor whose telephone number is (571)272-8394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Renee Claytor

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/SREENI PADMANABHAN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1617